
Manner: SUICIDE

Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries with evidence of intent to end one's life. Evidence of intent includes an explicit expression, such as a suicide note or verbal threat, or an act constituting implicit intent, such as deliberately placing a gun to one's head or rigging a vehicle's exhaust. In 2006 there were 227 suicides, accounting for 11% (227/2,055) of the deaths that the King County Medical Examiner's Office investigated.

Firearms were responsible for forty-three percent (43%, 98/227) of the 2006 suicide deaths. The number of gunshot suicides (98) in 2006 is more than in both 2005 and 2004 when there were 96 and 95, respectively. Hanging accounted for 14% (31/227) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 11% (26/227). Drugs and poisons accounted for 16% (36/227) of all suicides, while carbon monoxide caused death in 5% (11/227) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons" beginning on page 83.

Blood alcohol tests were performed in 96% (218/227) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 33% (72/218) of cases tested.

Suicides in the age group 60 years and older represented 20% (45/227) of all suicides in 2006.

Firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for all age groups in 2006.

In 2006, there were two deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by adults 60 years of age and over. In 2006, there were no suicides attributed to drugs and/or poisons among youths 19 years and younger. This compares to 2005 when there was one.

In 2006, there were 11 suicides among persons 19 years and younger (5% of all suicides, 11/227), which is comparable to 2005 when there were eight suicides in this age group (8/233, 3%). Firearms were the primary method of death (46%, 5/11) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger.

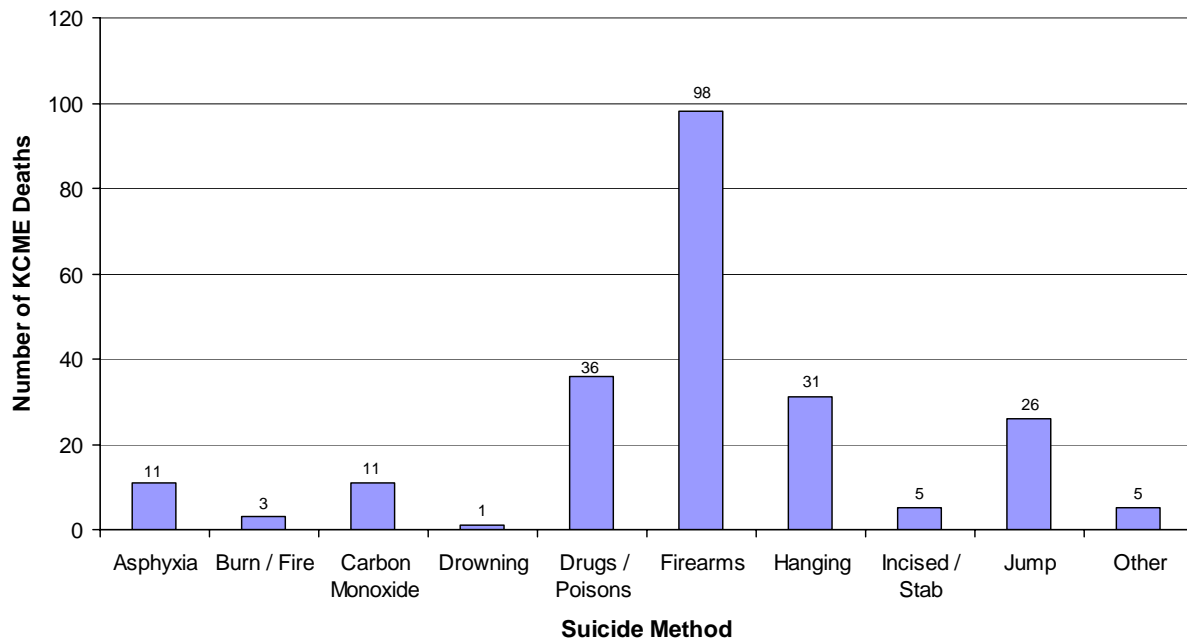
Graph 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHE R		
Asphyxia	11	0	0	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	10	0	0	0	0	10	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	2	0	1	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	10	1	0	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	8	0	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	0	0	0	3	
Drowning	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs / Poisons	33	2	1	0	0		36
<i>Male</i>	13	1	1	0	0	15	
<i>Female</i>	20	1	0	0	0	21	
Firearms	89	4	4	0	1		98
<i>Male</i>	81	4	4	0	1	90	
<i>Female</i>	8	0	0	0	0	8	
Hanging	23	2	4	2	0		31
<i>Male</i>	17	2	4	2	0	25	
<i>Female</i>	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	4	0	1	0	0		5
<i>Male</i>	4	0	0	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Jumping	20	2	4	0	0		26
<i>Male</i>	11	2	2	0	0	15	
<i>Female</i>	9	0	2	0	0	11	
Other	4	0	1	0	0		5
<i>Male</i>	4	0	1	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	197	11	16	2	1		227
Percent	86.8%	4.9%	7.0%	0.9%	0.4%		100%

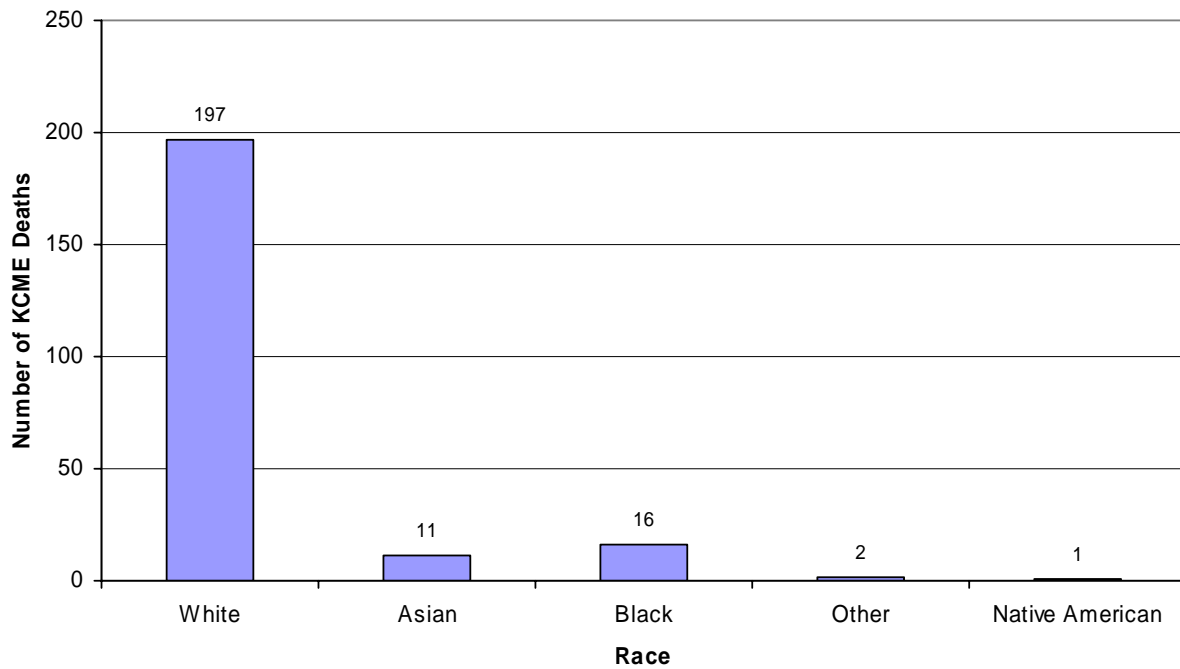
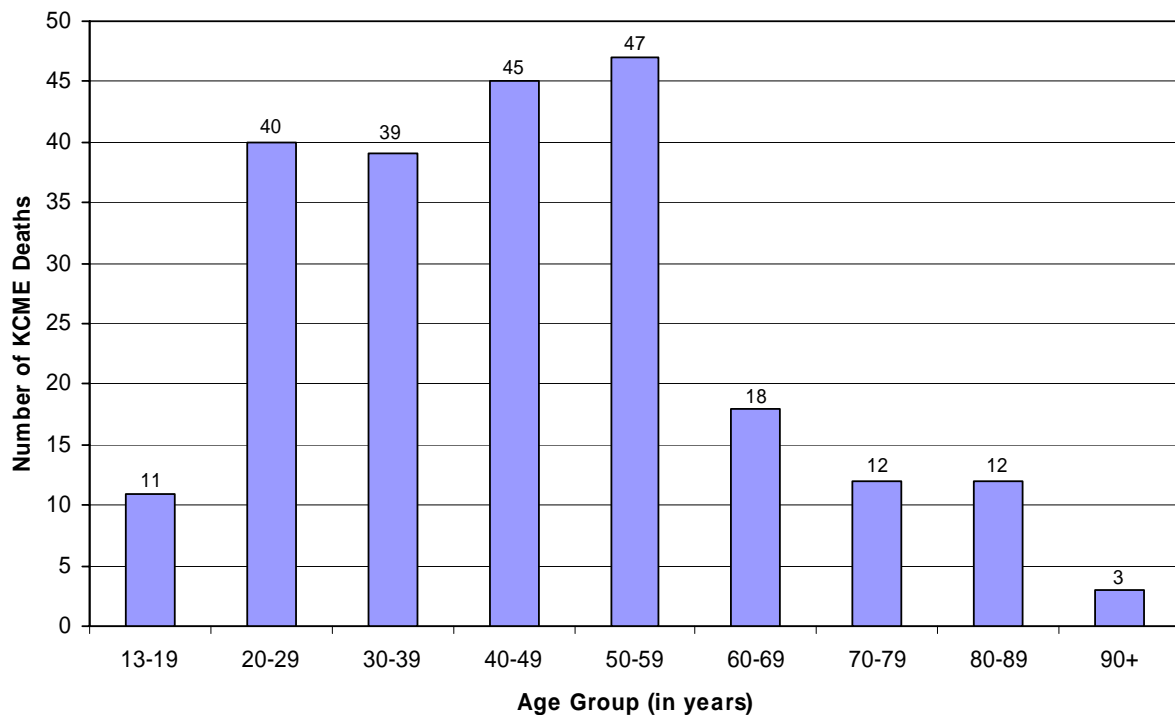
Graph 6-2 Suicide Deaths / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**Graph 6-3 Suicide Deaths / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

INJURY METHOD/ SEX	AGE GROUP (YEARS)									SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	13 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia	1	2	3	2	0	1	0	2	0		11
Male	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	10	
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		3
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	0	1	5	2	0	1	2	0	0		11
Male	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Drugs / Poisons	0	5	6	11	12	0	0	2	0		36
Male	0	2	2	6	5	0	0	0	0	15	
Female	0	3	4	5	7	0	0	2	0	21	
Firearms	5	16	10	15	23	12	8	7	2		98
Male	5	15	10	13	21	11	7	6	2	90	
Female	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	8	
Hanging	2	9	7	8	4	1	0	0	0		31
Male	2	6	6	7	3	1	0	0	0	25	
Female	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0		5
Male	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	2	3	5	6	5	3	1	1	0		26
Male	0	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	0	15	
Female	2	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	11	
Other	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		5
Male	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	11	40	39	45	47	18	12	12	3		227
Percent	5%	18%	17%	20%	21%	8%	5%	5%	1%		100%

Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

INJURY METHOD	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	10	1	11
Burns/ Fire	1	2	3
Carbon Monoxide	8	3	11
Drowning	0	1	1
Drugs / Poisons	15	21	36
Firearms	90	8	98
Hanging	25	6	31
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	4	1	5
Jumping	15	11	26
Other	5	0	5
Totals	173	54	227
Percent	76%	24%	100%

Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods / Marital Status / Sex / KCME / 2006

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	MARITAL STATUS					Sub Total	Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Unknown		
Asphyxia	6	3	1	1	0		11
Male	5	3	1	1	0	10	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Burns/ Fire	1	1	1	0	0		3
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Carbon Monoxide	3	1	5	2	0		11
Male	3	1	3	1	0	8	
Female	0	0	2	1	0	3	
Drowning	1	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs / Poisons	15	3	15	2	1		36
Male	9	1	5	0	0	15	
Female	6	2	10	2	1	21	
Firearms	42	24	20	10	2		98
Male	40	22	17	9	2	90	
Female	2	2	3	1	0	8	
Hanging	15	12	3	1	0		31
Male	13	8	3	1	0	25	
Female	2	4	0	0	0	6	
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	1	3	1	0	0		5
Male	1	2	1	0	0	4	
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	11	5	8	1	1		26
Male	8	4	3	0	0	15	
Female	3	1	5	1	1	11	
Other	5	0	0	0	0		5
Male	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	100	52	54	17	4		227
Percent	44%	23%	24%	7%	2%		100%

Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods / Blood Alcohol / KCME / 2006

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	2	9	0	11
Burns/ Fire	1	1	1	3
Carbon Monoxide	5	5	1	11
Drowning	1	0	0	1
Drugs / Poisons	14	21	1	36
Firearms	27	69	2	98
Hanging	14	15	2	31
Incised / Stab Wound(s)	1	4	0	5
Jumping	6	19	1	26
Other	1	3	1	5
Totals	72	146	9	227
Percent	32%	64%	4%	100%